

Beverley and surrounding suburbs

Community Working Group

Wednesday 24 February 2016: 7pm for 7:10pm start (light refreshments provided)

Maltese Cultural Centre 6 Jeanes Street, Beverley

Name	Representation	Name	Representation
Andrew Pruszinski	EPA	Cate Moore	Resident
Danielle Torresan	EPA	Julie O'Leary	Resident
Mitch Talbot	EPA	Jayne Willcocks	Resident
Dale McGill	EPA	Mat Way	Resident
Rachel Hudson	EPA	Tony Kyriacou	Flinders Park Residents Association
Dr Sim Ooi	Salcor	Debra Harding	City of Charles Sturt
Susan Ovenden	Resident	Adam Filipi	City of Charles Sturt
Doug Scotney	Resident		

Welcome and introductions

Rachel Hudson introduced herself to the Working Group and gave a brief summary of the principles outlined in the Terms of Reference, in regards to polite discourse and directing questions through the Chair. Dale McGill then asked whether anyone had any questions, however the group wished to be provided with an update first and ask questions in relation to the update itself.

Presentations

- Dale McGill reviewed the questions from previous sessions.
- Dr Sim Ooi then gave a presentation on his review of the 2015 assessment work.
- Dale provided a summary of where the assessment process is up to.

Questions

The questions overleaf were raised by the group:

What has been found out on a world-wide basis?

There is limited information available in relation to studies of TCE impacts on humans. Certainly more work in relation to the effects of TCE is being undertaken (especially overseas). SA Health would probably be the best to describe the latest in relation to TCE and health impacts/studies.

Could we distil the international information on the health effects into a presentation?

The EPA will approach SA Health and request that they do a presentation in relation to the health effects of TCE.

Can we get SA Health back to explain these effects?

The EPA will approach SA Health and request that they do a presentation in relation to this matter.

Can we get SA Health to be invited to all subsequent meetings?

Yes, the EPA will invite a representative from SA Health to come to all future CWG meetings.

Is there a record of how much TCE was used historically?

There is limited information in relation to the quantities of TCE used historically in Australia. It is known however that the use of TCE commercially began in the early 1900's with demand peaking in the late 1960's to mid-1970's. There was however a steep decline in the use of TCE subsequent to reports being released indicating that there was a strong relationship between TCE and carcinogenic effects on mice.

By the early 1990's the use of TCE had significantly dropped with much of industry favouring safer alternatives. The EPA is currently preparing a report which summarises the historical activities in the Beverley area. A summary of the use of TCE in Australia will be included in the report.

Do we know if industry in Beverley is still using TCE today?

TCE is still available for commercial use and is available within Australia. The EPA does not hold records as to who may be using TCE in Beverley. However given the current environmental legislative controls in place and the significant reduction in demand for TCE it is unlikely that any current use has contributed to the site contamination in Beverley.

So you don't require an EPA license to use TCE?

No, there is no requirement for an EPA license to use TCE. SafeWork SA regulates and licences the storage of dangerous goods (of which TCE falls under) at workplace premises.

If you were using bore water on your fruit tree historically, would this have an effect?

If you have been watering your fruit and vegetables with bore water, the health advice is that you should not eat them until you have had your bore tested and it is deemed fit for use.

The Department of Health issues the standard advice that bore water should never be used for drinking, cooking, watering edible plants or filling up swimming pools, unless it has been tested by a specialist laboratory.

Specific advice is available from SA Health Scientific Services (see contact details below). The EPA's previous advice to not use bore water for any use remains in place.

Can you provide more clarity on the levels that are safe, especially in relation to this particular community?

The EPA will approach SA Health and request that provide a presentation in relation to this matter.

What is the significance of soil moisture?

A key piece of information when assessing soil vapour migration is the soil moisture. The vapour will travel through the air pockets (void space) in the soil profile. When the soil moisture content increases, the air pockets are filled with water which leaves less room for the vapour to be travelling through the soil profile and can provide a natural barrier to limit the soil vapour migration.

Is there a difference between slab or crawl space in terms of attenuation/ventilation?

Generally, a crawl space has a higher ventilation rate than an indoor air space. A crawl space will have a higher attenuation (reduction) rate than a slab-on-ground house, because of the ventilation rate. The vapour intrusion model was adopted for the assessment of both slab-on-ground and crawl space constructions, by assuming a lower indoor ventilation rate for both construction types.

Is there revised modelling [conducted as part of the review of Golder Associates reports] still considered to be conservative?

The vapour intrusion model used is a dynamic model, incorporating site-specific considerations to mimic the observed indoor air concentrations of TCE. Some degree of conservatism (i.e. over-prediction) is maintained in the development of the vapour intrusion model to account for uncertainties associated with modelling.

Is the current work being done based on Sim's review?

The outcomes of the review have been used to assist in the developing the current work program and will be used to refine the human health risk assessment to be reported in June 2016.

Is this a dynamic model?

The vapour intrusion model adopted is a dynamic model and is generally refined using site-specific data that will be collected during this next stage of sampling.

Have you found the source?

Currently the source location(s) of the TCE contamination has not been identified. However, as part of the Stage 3 broader assessment program, the EPA is attempting to identify the source location of the TCE contamination. To assist in this, a review of the historical industry in Beverley was undertaken with the intention of locating potential source areas. A summary of this review is currently being prepared and will be provided to the members of the working group as well as made available on the EPA website in the near future.

Community engagement and communication update

Rachel advised the group that she would be contactable for any queries or questions, and advised that she would probably be communicating further with the CWG in an administrative capacity to provide meeting notes, upcoming agendas etc.

Next meeting: 22 March 2016

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, and will send out an agenda closer to this date.

For further information Information

Community Information line 1800 729 175

Email EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au

Website www.epa.sa.gov.au

For any questions specific to health, please contact the Scientific Services Branch of SA Health.

Phone 08 8226 7100

Email public.health@health.sa.gov.au